TRENDS

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ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

Office of Information
and Public Affairs
50 F Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20001
(202) 639-2555

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, April 28, 1988 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended April 23 totaled 19.3 billion ton-miles, up 10.6 percent from the 17.5 billion carried in the comparable week of 1987.

Cumulative volume for the first 16 weeks of 1988 was an estimated 298.7 billion ton-miles carried, up 7.3 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings originated in the week ended April 23 totaled 431,582, up 8.9 percent from the corresponding week of last year, but down 0.7 percent from the preceding week. Compared with last year, carloadings originated were up 16.2 percent in the West, and 2.8 percent in the East.

Compared with the corresponding week of last year, 15 of the 20 major commodity groups increased. Coal loadings were up by 9,375 cars (8.6 percent), grain showed a gain of 7,232 cars (28.4 percent), and metallic ores increased by 4,913 cars (33.0 percent). Eleven of the 20 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

Piggyback traffic for the week ended April 16 totaled 108,642 trailers and/or containers, up 7.6 percent from the comparable week of 1987.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 15 weeks of the year was 1,609,159 trailers and/or containers, up 5.0 percent from 1987.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 4/23/88:

	Loadings in Week ended April 23, 1988		Change from Corresponding Week 1987			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	32,723	I	7,232	28.4	D	948	2.8
Other farm products	3,506	D	96	2.7	D	166	4.5
Metallic ores	19,803	I	4,913	33.0	I	1,367	7.4
Coal	118,610	I	9,375	8.6	D	2,498	2.1
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	17,360	I	1,008	6.2	I	530	3.1
Nonmetallic minerals	10,773	I	629	6.2	I	223	2.1
Grain mill products	11,148	I	623	5.9	I	200	1.8
Food and kindred products	11,366	I	368	3.3	I	257	2.3
Primary forest products	9,364	D	1,671	15.1	D	526	5.3
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,184	D	481	5.6	I	71	0.9
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,031	D	612	4.8	D	258	2.1
Chemicals and allied products	28,890	I	261	0.9	D	501	1.7
Petroleum products	4,913	D	59	1.2	I	95	2.0
Stone, clay and glass products	11,492	I	425	3.8	D	582	4.8
Coke	5,848	I	675	13.0	D	431	6.9
Metals and products	11,234	I	2,158	23.8	I	257	2.3
Motor vehicles and equipment	22,639	I	3,755	19.9	I	223	1.0
Waste and scrap materials	10,054	I	1,906	23.4	I	80	0.8
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,649	I	186	7.6	I	92	3.6
All other carloads	78,995	I	4,786	6.4	D	530	0.7
Total Cars Loaded	431,582	I	35,381	8.9	D	3,045	0.7
Corresponding week of 1987	396,201						

	1988	1987	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (16 weeks)	6,658,248	6,251,692	I 6.5
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
15 weeks ended April 16	279.4	260.8	I 7.1
Week ended April 23	19.3	17.5	I 10.6
16 Weeks cumulative	298.7	278.3	I 7.3

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